National Knowledge Commission

†285. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'National Knowledge Commission' has submitted any report recommending improvement in the level of libraries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's approach thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Set up a National Commission on Libraries

(ii) Prepare a National Census of all Libraries

(iii) Revamp Library and information science education training and research facilities

(iv) Re-assess staffing of libraries

(v) Set up a Central Library fund

(vi) Modernized Library Management

(vii) Encourage greater community participation in library management

(viii) Promote Information Communication Technology (ICT) applications in all libraries.

(ix) Facilitate donation and maintenance of private collections

(x) Encourage Public-Private Partnership in Libraries and Information Services development

(c) Government have incorporated the formation of a Library Mission in the Eleventh Plan, which will be guided by the report.

Expansion of telephone services

†286. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.